

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, September 9, 2005

Hello this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Whether it's caring for families after a natural disaster or making sure that seniors are not the victims of abuse, the role of government is always to uplift and protect citizens.

And in Michigan last week, from housing hurricane evacuees to protecting consumers at the pump, state government was working to do just that.

Michigan has responded in magnificent ways to help those who have lost so much in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. More than 300 evacuees have come or been brought to Michigan for temporary shelter and medical care.

We've also deployed hundreds of National Guard troops, teams of Michigan State Police and DNR conservation offices and others to Louisiana and Mississippi.

To ensure adequate gasoline supplies in Michigan and to prevent costs from rising further during this time of crisis, last week I declared an energy emergency to maintain the supply of fuel across the state.

I spoke with executives of Marathon Oil Corporation about reducing the price of gas for Michigan customers – and I commend them for doing so recently.

And I want to thank the thousands of people and community organizations that have offered to donate everything from dollars to dolls for children through Michigan's Hurricane helpline.

Now, if anyone wonders whether our state can shoulder this burden given the very real challenges that we face at home, the people of Michigan have answered that question with a loud and certain "yes we can."

Indeed, people haven't just opened their wallets; they've opened their hearts to Katrina's victims – from businesses who've offered food and supplies, to citizens who've offered shelter, to faith communities who've offered prayer, the people of Michigan have responded with compassion and unbelievable generosity to help our fellow citizens.

I have been – and I hope you've been – so moved by the offers of help from communities across our state. In fact, a vein of selflessness and patriotism and love has been tapped – a human desire to heal the pain of others. And plans to do so have been hatched across kitchen tables and around water coolers in every community in Michigan.

As governor, I cannot tell you how proud it makes me. And as a citizen, it should make you proud, too.

And I want to encourage citizens to remember that there are people in need every day across our state – and whether its during a time of national crisis or a time of need for a Michigan family, each one of us can help to heal the pain of others.

Thank you for listening and thank you Michigan.